



Speech By
Hon. Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

Record of Proceedings, 13 February 2024

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Weather Events

 **Hon. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.55 am): Queensland has experienced extreme weather events across the state during the summer of 2023-24. We have seen Tropical Cyclone Jasper, Christmas storms in the south, Tropical Cyclone Kirrily in the new year and the continued rain and flooding that has come with it, impacting suburbs in Brisbane to Outback Queensland. Queensland has felt the full force of Mother Nature.

The current reconstruction estimate for our state over the 2023-24 disaster season, including the bushfires of late 2023, now exceeds \$1.3 billion, with more severe weather possible. Since mid-December 2023 we have seen more than half the state—a massive 43 councils—activated for disaster recovery arrangements assistance. We have seen approximately 10,200 rapid damage assessments conducted by the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and Queensland Reconstruction Authority in affected communities. More than \$63.8 million has been paid in personal hardship assistance payments that have benefited 341,000 Queenslanders. We have seen over a quarter of a million Queenslanders who have experienced the heartbreak and the trauma of disasters—Queenslanders like Jules, a northern beaches local, who was unaware that water had ripped through his Machans Beach home while he was volunteering and sandbagging for others. These events are not just widespread; they are unprecedented and they are intensely devastating.

The recovery response has been so extensive that at least 15 state agencies were involved in the immediate recovery. Countless volunteers and frontline workers have been crucial to our successful response to this intense summer of disasters and the intense recovery that will follow. I could not be more proud of the work provided on the ground to support Queenslanders. I have been truly impressed by the camaraderie and the teamwork our frontline workers and volunteers show in supporting the Queensland community.

We have visited numerous communities who have been impacted by the devastating summer, and I have had the honour of meeting some truly remarkable people—communities throughout Queensland who have come together to help each other out. Again, I thank every one of these Queenslanders for their selflessness and their generosity. The Queensland spirit continues to shine bright.